

**Amendments to the Drawings**

Figures 1 and 11 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to label item 12 as a "network processing device," as supported by the specification, e.g., at page 3, lines 6-7.

Replacement sheets for Figures 1 and 11, and marked-up copies for the Examiner's approval, are transmitted herewith.

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 12-14, 16, 18, and 19 were rejected. Claims 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 15, 17, and 20-22 were objected to. Claims 1, 2, 4, 17, 19, and 20 are canceled herein, and claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 15, 18, and 21 are amended. Accordingly, claims 3, 5-16, 18, 21, and 22 remain active in the application. In view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

### **Response to Drawing Objection**

Figures 1 and 11 were objected to "because item 12 is an unlabeled rectangular box and should be labeled with descriptive text, such as 'network processing device' (37 CFR 1.83(a))." (Office Action, paragraph 1.) Appropriate changes have been made to Figure 1 and 11. Marked-up copies and proposed replacement sheets are attached for the Examiner's review and approval.

### **Response to Claim Rejections**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, 12-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,810,031 ("Hegde"). Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0081185 ("Grow"). Although Applicant continues to disagree with the reasoning presented in these rejections, the rejected claimed subject matter has been canceled in this application so that the identified allowable subject matter in the remaining claims can proceed to issuance without further delay.

### **Response to Claim Objections**

Claims 3, 5-8, 10-11, 15, 17, and 20-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were found otherwise allowable.

Claim 3 has been amended to include the subject matter of its parent claims 1 and 2.

Claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of its parent claims 1 and 4.

Claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of its parent claim 1, and has been reworded slightly to improve readability of the combined claim. Claims 7 and 8 depend from now independent claim 6, and therefore amendment of claims 7 and 8 is unnecessary.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 6 instead of claim 1, and is therefore allowable based on the allowability of claim 6.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9, and are therefore allowable based on the allowability of claim 9. Note that claim 11 has been amended to recite a dependence from claim 9. Claim 11 previously erroneously recited a dependence from claim 8, although a dependence from claim 9 is necessary to provide antecedent basis for the arbitration circuit.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of its dependent allowable claim 17, and therefore represents prior claim 17 (now canceled) amended to independent form. Claims 13, 14, and 16 continue to depend from now allowable claim 12, and are therefore allowable based on this dependence.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of its parent claim 12.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 19 and 20, and therefore represents allowable prior claim 20 (now canceled and previously depending from claims 18 and 19) amended to independent form.

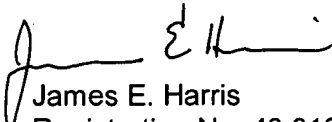
Claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 18 instead of claim 20, since claim 18 now represents prior claim 20 amended to independent form.

Claim 22 depends from claim 21, and is now allowable based on the amendment to claim 18.

### Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that the application be allowed in present form.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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on	<u>Mar 10, 2006</u>
Date	<u>Susan C. Lien</u>
	Susan C. Lien

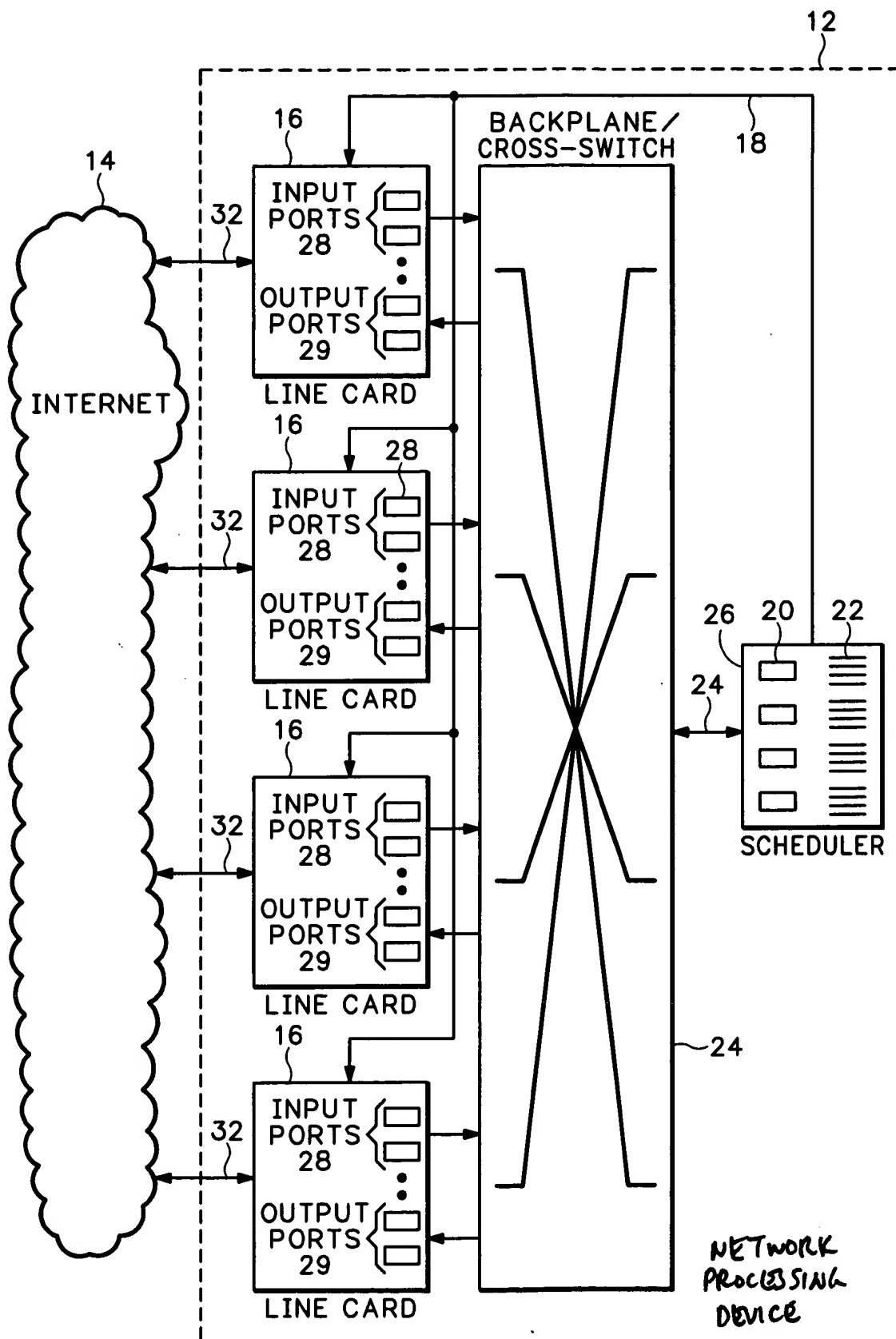
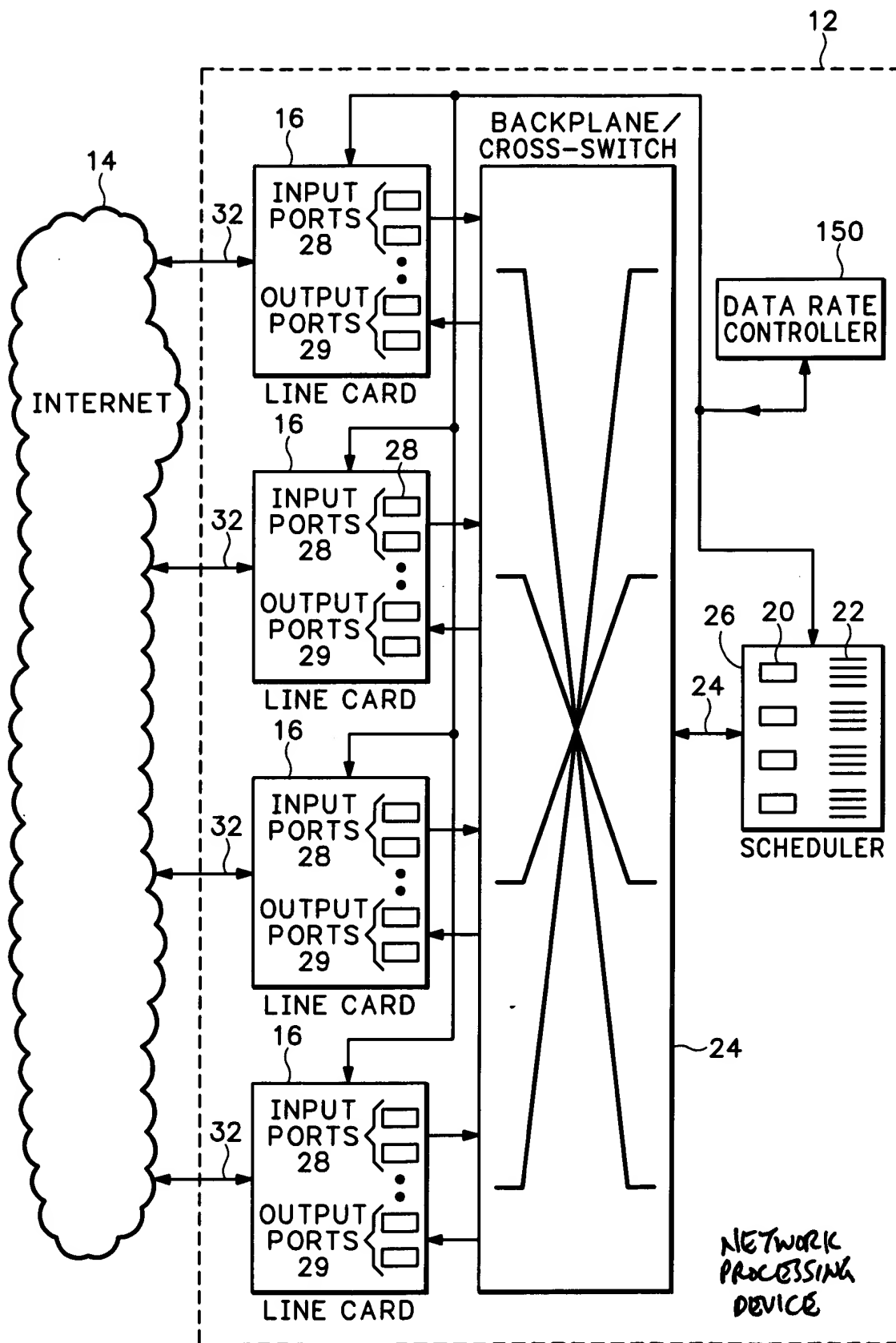


FIG.1



**FIG.11**